

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 24, 2004, **MICHAEL N. CURRIE**, age 36, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. CURRIE was sentenced to 168 months imprisonment, 6 years supervised release, and was fined \$100.

CURRIE had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of knowingly and intentionally distributing crack cocaine. The offenses occurred in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.

C:\Documents and Settings\johms\Desktop\PRESSRELEASES!!!!!!!1\Currie sentencing pr. wpd